

REMARKS

Claims 15-52 are pending. For clarity, the specification has been amended to identify the various metal groups used in the invention using both forms of periodic table nomenclature (see Table below):

I	II	IIIb	IVb	Vb	VIb	VIIb	VIIIb		Ib	IIb	III	IV	V	VI	VII	0	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
H																	He
Li	Be											B	C	N	O	F	Ne
Na	Mg											Al	Si	P	S	Cl	Ar
K	Ca	Sc	Ti	V	Cr	Mn	Fe	Co	Ni	Cu	Zn	Ga	Ge	As	Se	Br	Kr
Rb	Sr	Y	Zr	Nb	Mo	Tc	Ru	Rh	Pd	Ag	Cd	In	Sn	Sb	Te	I	Xe
Cs	Ba	La*	Hf	Ta	W	Re	Os	Ir	Pt	Au	Hg	Tl	Pb	Bi	Po	At	Rn
Fr	Ra	Ac**	Rf	Db	Sg	Bh	Hs	Mt	Uun	Uuu	Uub		Uuq		Uuh		Uuo
Lanthanides *			Ce	Pr	Nd	Pm	Sm	Eu	Gd	Tb	Dy	Ho	Er	Tm	Yb	Lu	
Actinides **			Th	Pa	U	Np	Pu	Am	Cm	Bk	Cf	Es	Fm	Md	No	Lr	

The specification has also been amended to correct minor typographical errors on pages 2 and 7. Support for these changes is apparent from the surrounding context on pages 2 and 7. Page 5 has also been amended to correct typographical errors in formulas Ib and Vb. Support for the corrections of formulas Ib and Vb is found in the substituent definitions in formula (I) and (V)--see e.g., original Claim 1. Independent Claims 15, 29 and 41 track and find support in the three subparts of original Claim 1. Dependent Claims 15-28, 30-40 and 42-52 find support in original Claims 2-14. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added.

The Applicants thank Examiner Wong for the courteous and helpful interview of April 29, 2003. Alternative nomenclature for the metal salts of subgroups IB, IIB, VIB, and VIIIB was reviewed. It was suggested that the Applicants provide a copy of a Periodic Table (provided above) using both the old and new nomenclature for these metal groups and that the specification and claims be amended accordingly. The Examiner agreed to reconsider the prior art rejection, as the claimed processes are directed to the use of a metal salt of

Subgroup IB (copper group), while the cited prior art is directed to a process using a metal from Group I (alkali metal group).

Objection—Specification

Pages 2 and 7 of the specification were objected to as containing minor errors. The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, these objections may be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 2 and 11 were objected to for various informalities. These objections are moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement. These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are moot in view of the cancellation of these claims.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hermeling, U.S. Patent No. 5, 266,171, in view of Shono et al., J. Chem. Soc., Perkin Trans. 1:73-77. This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of these claims. It would not apply to the new claims, because the claimed processes require the use of a metal salt of subgroups IB, IIB, VIB, or VIIB. Group IB is the copper group. The rejection indicates that

Hermeling does not teach adding catalytic amounts of a metal salt (S) of subgroups IB, IIB, VIB, or VIIIB. Shono is directed to a process involving potassium iodide (KI), however, potassium is a member of Group I (the alkali metal group) and not subgroup IB, which is required by the present invention.

Accordingly, as there is no disclosure or suggestion of a process using a metal salt (S) of subgroups IB, IIB, VIB, or VIIIB, the Applicants submit that this ground of rejection would not apply to the present claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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